

USDA/Rural Development

1502 Highway 77 North, Hillsboro TX 76645 • e-mail: Melony.Hennig@tx.usda.gov
VOICE: 254-582-7328 EXT. 4 • FAX: 254-582-7622 • TDD: 254-742-9712 - Web Site: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>

News Release

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For More Information Contact:
Melony J. Hennig

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THE BLUEBONNET WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

Temple, Texas, November 14, 2002 — Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that the Bluebonnet Water Supply Corporation received a \$1,908,000 loan and a \$1,561,000 grant through the agency's Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "With lower populations and tax bases than urban areas, rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds will be used to make improvements to the water system which include installing 39,000 linear feet of 16-inch water transmission lines and a 2,000,000 gallon storage tank. The improvements will eliminate water losses in existing lines and will increase capacity to approximately 13,450 individual users. The project will primarily benefit residents of McGregor and Woodway.

In Fiscal Year 2002, \$91.7 million of loan and grant assistance was infused into 61 projects and 106,000 rural Texas households. USDA's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Hillsboro Local Office at (254) 582-7328, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

**For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.**

